employment for subsequent period on the basis of thin sample surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation and growth rate of the economy show that on an average around 70 lakh employment opportunities were created per year.

(c) According to the statistics maintained by the Labour Bureau of Ministry of Labour & Employment, the number of workers retrenched in the public sector during 2001, 2002, 2003 & 2004 were 1481,720, 424 and 853 respectively.

(d) Government have targeted creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities, 3 crore from normal growth process and 2 crore through special employment generation programmes during the 10th Plan period. Special emphasis has been laid on labour intensive sectors such as agriculture, irrigation, agro-forestry, small and medium enterprises, information communication technology, tourism, other services etc.

Industries in Maharashtra

*469. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the States doing well on the industrial/manufacturing front;

(b) whether it is a fact that the industrial sector in Maharashtra is on the decline;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government are devising any package for the benefit of Maharashtra where industries are suffering due to several problems; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) As per the CSO data for the year 2004-05, Jharkhand, Chandigarh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Delhi were among the States/UT.s, which registered an industrial growth rate higher than the national average.

(b) Maharashtra registered industrial growth rates of 8.6 per cent in 2002-03, 11.6 per cent in 2003-04 and 9.8 per cent during 2004-05

compared to all-India averages of 6.8 per cent, 6.6 per cent and 7.7 per cent respectively during these three years.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

Recruitment of women in Police Forces

*470. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the active consideration of Government to abolish recruitment of women in Police in the country;

(b) if so, whether some State Governments have also approached the Central Government in this regard, and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the recruitment of women in police force would be completely stopped and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise. In fact, the Central Government has consistently advised the State Governments to ensure that the strength of women personnel is raised to atleast 10 per cent.

AEZ proposals from Karnataka

*471. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent any proposals for setting up of Agri-Export Zone for aromatic medicinal and dye plants, grapes, mango, lime, pomegranate and potatoes;

(b) if so, whether any assistance has been given from Government of India; and

(c) if not, by when the proposal would be considered?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.